

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0022] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0022] Damper seal 66 is an elastomeric seal which defines an annular groove 72 within which positioning ring 64 is located. Positioning ring 64 can be a separate component or positioning ring 64 can be bonded to damper seal 66 during or after the molding operation for damper seal 66. The outer diameter of damper seal 66 sealingly engages rod guide 50. Damper seal 66 defines a lower annular seal lip 74 that engages piston rod 34 at a position below shoulder 70 of rod guide 50 and an upper annular seal lip 76 that engages piston rod 34 at a position above shoulder 70 of rod guide 50. Lower annular seal lip 74 acts primarily as a seal which keeps hydraulic fluid within shock absorber 20. Any hydraulic fluid which may adhere to the outer surface of piston rod 34 after having past lower seal assembly 62 will be wiped off of piston rod 34 and returned to reserve chamber 54 through a fluid de-aeration passage 82 extending through rod guide 50. While acting as a secondary oil seal, lower annular seal lip 74 will also act to stop dirt and contamination from entering shock absorber 20. Upper annular seal 76 acts primarily as a seal which keeps dirt and other contaminants out of shock absorber 20. Any dirt or contaminants located on the outer surface of piston rod 34 will be wiped off by upper annular seal lip 76. While acting primarily as a dirt seal, upper annular seal lip 76 will also act as an oil seal to keep hydraulic fluid within shock absorber 20.